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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LAURIE Q., ANGEL L., MEGAN W.,  
CHRISTINA T., REBECCA T., JESSE B.,  
KENDRA G., and CHERIDA L., each by  
guardian ad litem, individually and on behalf  
of others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY,

Defendant.

No. C 96-3483 MHP (JCS)

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER APPROVING  
PETITION TO COMPROMISE CLAIMS OF  
MINORS

The verified petition by the plaintiffs in this case has been filed for an Order Approving the Proposed Compromise of Plaintiffs' claims against Contra Costa County. This Court supervised lengthy settlement negotiations and the parties have stipulated that Magistrate Judge Joseph Spero may review and approve the Petition to Compromise the Claims of Minors. In addition, this Court finds that good cause exists to approve this petition without a hearing and

without requiring the personal appearance of the minors and their Guardians ad Litem who have petitioned the Court to compromise their claims.

The plaintiffs/petitioners include: Patricia Brooks as the Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Laurie Q, a **minor** in this action; Judith Gonzales as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Kendra J., a **minor** in this action; Mary Love as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiffs Angel L. and Cherida L., former minors in this action; Rosada Russell as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Jesse B., a **minor** in this action; Terri Woods, as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Megan W., a **minor** in this action; and Sheila Trokey as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiffs Christina T. and Rebecca T., former minors in this action.

On the evidence introduced, the Court finds that the facts set forth in the Petition are true and that it is in the best interests of the minors and former minors that this case be settled for monetary and non-monetary relief described in the Settlement Agreement and that the proceeds from the settlement be allocated between the plaintiffs and their attorneys as provided below.

1. Contra Costa County shall pay \$50,000 to Plaintiff Laurie Q., payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

2. Contra Costa County shall pay \$50,000 to Judith Gonzales as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Kendra J., who is a minor, payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

3. Contra Costa County shall pay \$40,000 to Mary Love as Guardian ad Litem and Attorney in Fact for plaintiff Angel L., payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

4. Contra Costa County shall pay \$70,000 to Mary Love as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Cherida L., who is disabled, payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

5. Contra Costa County shall pay \$60,000 to Rosada Russell as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Jesse B., who is a minor, payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be

distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

6. Contra Costa County shall pay \$40,000 to Terri Woods, as Guardian ad Litem for plaintiff Megan W., who is a minor, payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

7. Contra Costa County shall pay \$45,000 to plaintiff Annabelle Christina T., payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

8. Contra Costa County shall pay \$45,000 to plaintiff Elizabeth Rebecca T., payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen, to be distributed pursuant to further order of this Court.

9. Contra Costa County shall pay \$350,000 to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen for attorneys fees and costs, payable to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen to be distributed to the Law Office of Michael S. Sorgen, Darren Kessler and The Scott Law Firm as follows. The allocation of this amount is that \$300,000 is for attorney fees, \$47,748.98 for costs already advanced. Out of this amount, \$2,251.02 shall remain in trust as a reserve for future costs associated with finalizing this settlement, to be distributed pursuant to further order by this Court.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the compromise be approved in the manner provided in the Petition and this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Contra Costa County shall distribute the proceeds of the settlement to the trust fund of Michael S. Sorgen for the settlement of this lawsuit as described above.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that the plaintiffs' individual distributions will be made pursuant to further order by this Court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that upon receipt of the full amount of the settlement sum here approved, of \$750,000.00, that petitioners are authorized and directed to execute and deliver to defendant a complete and final release and discharge of any and all claims of plaintiffs arising from the facts set forth in the petition, and a properly executed dismissal of this action

1 with prejudice.

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3 DATED: August 10, 2005

  
HON. JOSEPH C. SPERO  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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